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Atty. Dkt. No. 062834-0168

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: George H. HOFFMAN, et al.  
Title: SYSTEM, METHOD AND  
COMPUTER PROGRAM  
PRODUCT FOR A  
COMMUNICATION FRAMEWORK  
IN A SUPPLY MANAGEMENT  
ARCHITECTURE  
Appl. No.: 09/816,048  
Filing Date: 03/23/2001  
Examiner: Unassigned  
Art Unit: 2161

RECEIVED  
JUN 02 2003  
GROUP 3600

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 CFR §1.56**

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

**TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

**RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT**

An English translation of the foreign-language document is not readily available. However, the absence of such translation does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted foreign language document (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §608). An English Abstract is attached for document A22.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date May 30, 2003

By 

FOLEY & LARDNER  
Customer Number: 22428



**22428**

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